WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!
OUR COMEBACK WILL BE BIGGER THAN OUR SETBACK!
Image
307
SPAWN
TODD MCFARLANE
PHILIP TAN
PROPHECY OF DEATH
PART 2
TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
1992-2020

SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE
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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

In Prophecy of Death Part 1 – A mysterious Orange energy had engulfed Spawn and sent him hurling towards a horrific version of the future. A future, that if Raptor is to be believed, is all Spawn's fault! Now the showdown is set to begin, The Hellspawn vs. The Angel Slayer!

image

TODD McFARLANE
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TO HELL WITH THEM.

TO HELL WITH ALL OF THEM!

THEY ALWAYS HAVE A RATIONALE-- A REASON FOR THEIR ACTIONS. EVEN WHEN MILLIONS OF HUMANS SUFFER IN THE WAKE OF THOSE ACTIONS, BECOMING NOTHING BUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN THEIR WAR.

EARTH IS MERELY A NUISANCE. GETTING IN THEIR WAY AS HEAVEN AND HELL WAGE THEIR ENDLESS WAR AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

SO, IF CENTURIES OF THEIR CALLOUS SLAUGHTER COULD SO EASILY BE DISMISSED, THEN SPAWN IS EQUALLY UNMOVED BY THE FACT HE'S JUST KILLED THE ONLY WOMAN LEFT ALIVE IN THIS NEW REALITY.*

*See last issue (the pre-pandemic one!) - Todd

SHE WAS THE LAST ONE!

AND THE REASON FOR SPAWN'S COLDNESS IS BECAUSE, EVEN WHEN HIS ENEMIES THINK THEY'RE DIFFERENT OR THAT THEY'VE SOMEHOW CHANGED, AT THEIR CORE, THEY'LL ALWAYS BE EVIL.

REGARDLESS OF THEIR DELUSIONS TO THE CONTRARY.

NOW, WE'RE ALL CONDEMNED!

SHE SAID YOU'D BE COMING. THAT YOU'D RETURN TO THE DEVASTATION YOUR KIND CREATED!
SPAWN HAS ALMOST BECOME DEAF TO THE RANTING OF THE INSANE. INSTEAD HE READIES HIMSELF, USING A PORTION OF THE LIMITED POWERS HE STILL HAS.
BECAUSE TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF TO THIS ENEMY WOULD ENCOURAGE EVEN MORE RAMBLINGS.
WITH THIS TYPE, SPAWN HAS ALWAYS FOUND THAT LESS IS MORE.
MY POWERS FUSED WITH HERS...
krack

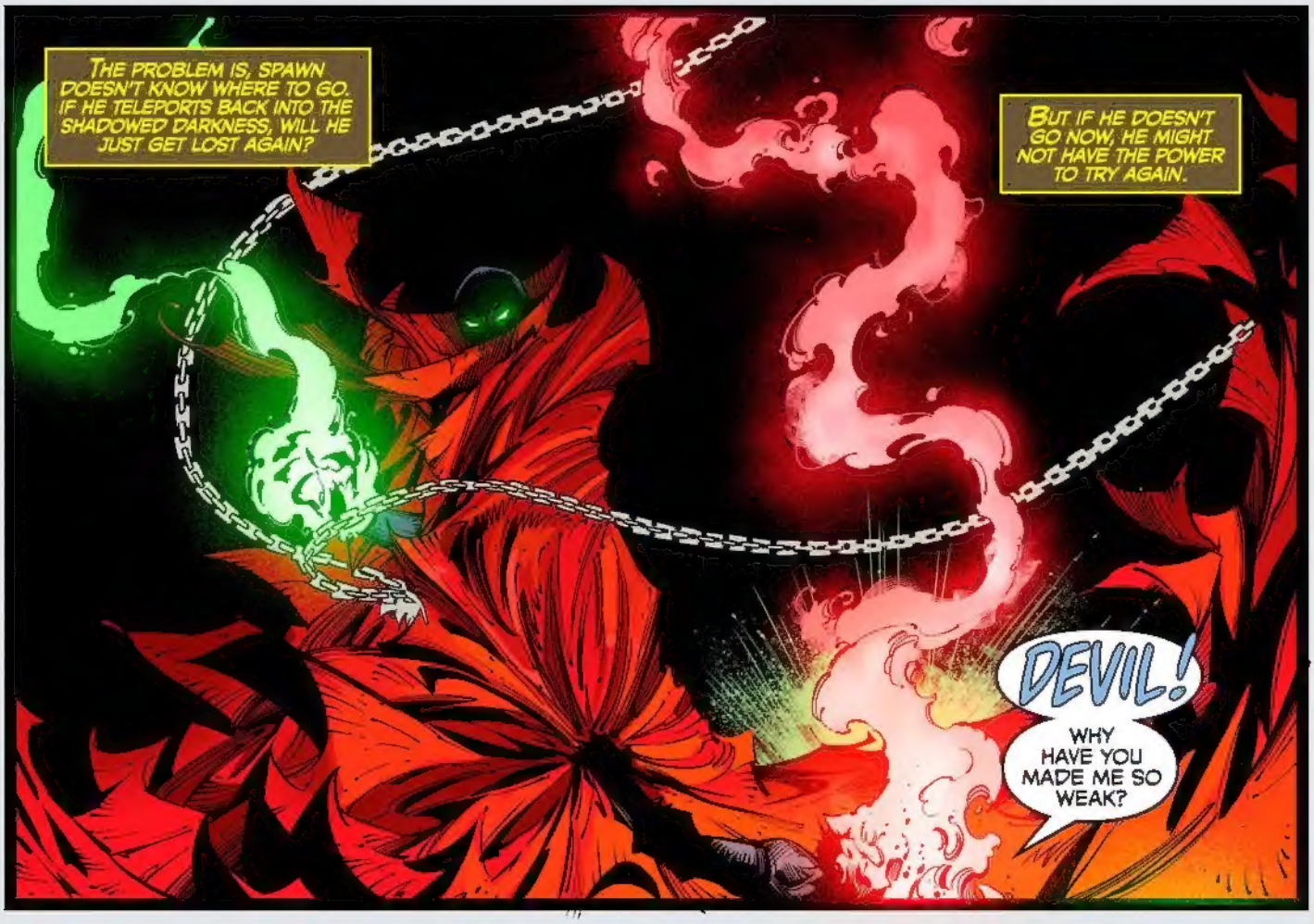
BUT, I DIDN'T WANT THAT!

SHE BEGGED ME--TOLD ME TO SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND THOSE WHOEVER DESTROYED OUR PLANET.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HAVING JUST FALLEN OUT OF THE 'DARKNESS,' SPAWN ASSUMED HE WAS BACK ON EARTH. WHICH HE IS.
HE ALSO ASSUMED HE WAS BACK IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.
HE WASN'T EVEN CLOSE.

SOMEHOW SPAWN WAS PULLED THROUGH A "TIME CONTINUUM LOOP" AND INSTEAD OF GETTING OFF AT THE SAME PLACE HE STARTED--LIKE SOME CELESTIAL FERRIS WHEEL--A RIPPLE OCCURRED THROWING HIM OFF BEFORE HIS HELLISH RIDE WAS COMPLETE.
WHAT'S WORSE, IS THAT HE MAY HAVE CAUSED ALL THIS DAMAGE HIMSELF.*
HIS SYMBIOTE COSTUME TUNED ITSELF TO THE EVIL COMING FROM THIS FUTURE, BUT IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO REACT TO IT.
SOMETHING IS WRONG. HE USED TO HAVE MASTERY OVER THE SHADOWS AND HIS COSTUME.
I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

*See issues 300 & 301 - Todd

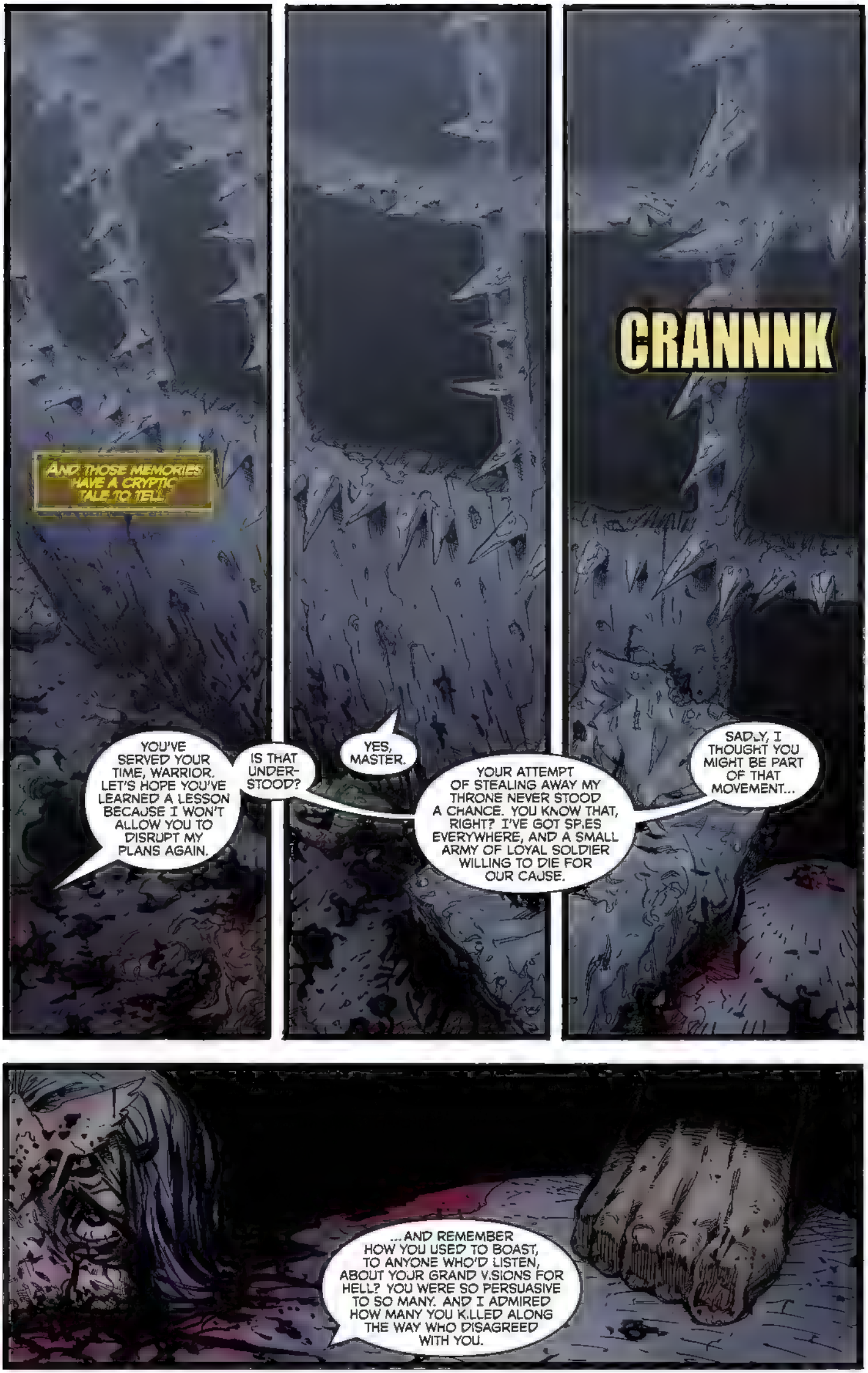

THE PROBLEM IS, SPAWN DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO. IF HE TELEPORTS BACK INTO THE SHADOWED DARKNESS, WILL HE JUST GET LOST AGAIN?
BUT IF HE DOESN'T GO NOW, HE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE POWER TO TRY AGAIN.
DEVIL!
WHY HAVE YOU MADE ME SO WEAK?

SPAWN DOESN'T KNOW WHY. BUT HE KNOWS THIS DERANGED MAN IS SOMEHOW DRAINING SPAWN'S ENERGY, TOO.

THESE TWO ARE SOMEHOW FEEDING OFF EACH OTHER'S LIFE FORCE.
IF I'M GOING TO DIE, THEN YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

SPAWN'S BEGINS TO FEEL--WHAT LITTLE POWER HE STILL HAS--START TO DRAIN FROM HIS BODY. THIS PLANET IS SLOWLY EATING THEM BOTH ALIVE LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S CONNECTED TO IT. THE HEARTBEAT OF THIS WORLD IS EBBING ITS WAY TO EXTINCTION.
AND SOMEHOW, HE AND THIS MADMAN ARE A PART OF THIS INSANE PUZZLE. THOUGH SOMETHING ELSE IS AT PLAY HERE. SOMETHING THAT ISN'T HEAVEN OR HELL.
THE CHILL GOING DOWN SPAWN'S SPINE IS THAT DEEP IN THE RECESSES OF HIS MIND IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MANKIND MAY NOT SURVIVE IN THE LONG RUN.
IT'S BIGGER THAN THOSE TWO.
MUCH BIGGER!

IT JUST NEEDED THE RIGHT CATALYSTS TO TRIGGER TO AWAKEN ITS SPIRIT. AND BOTH SPAWN, A MAN FORGED IN HELL, AND THIS RAPTOR, A MAN ENSLAVED BY HEAVEN, ARE KEYS TO THAT AWAKENING.
NOW, AS SPAWN TRIES TO ESCAPE INTO THE DARKNESS, HIS MIND IS BURNT WITH SEARING MEMORIES FROM RAPTOR'S PAST.
MASTER?


AND THOSE MEMORIES HAVE A CRYPTIC TALE TO TELL.
CRANNNK
YOU'VE SERVED YOUR TIME, WARRIOR. LET'S HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED A LESSON BECAUSE I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DISRUPT MY PLANS AGAIN.
IS THAT UNDER-STOOD?
YES, MASTER.
YOUR ATTEMPT OF STEALING AWAY MY THRONE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? I'VE GOT SP.ES EVERYWHERE, AND A SMALL ARMY OF LOYAL SOLDIER WILLING TO DIE FOR OUR CAUSE.
SAD.Y, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE PART OF THAT MOVEMENT...
...AND REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO BOAST, TO ANYONE WHO'D LISTEN, ABOUT YOUR GRAND V.SIONS FOR HELL? YOU WERE SO PERSUASIVE TO SO MANY. AND I ADMIRED HOW MANY YOU K.LLED ALONG THE WAY WHO DISAGREED WITH YOU.

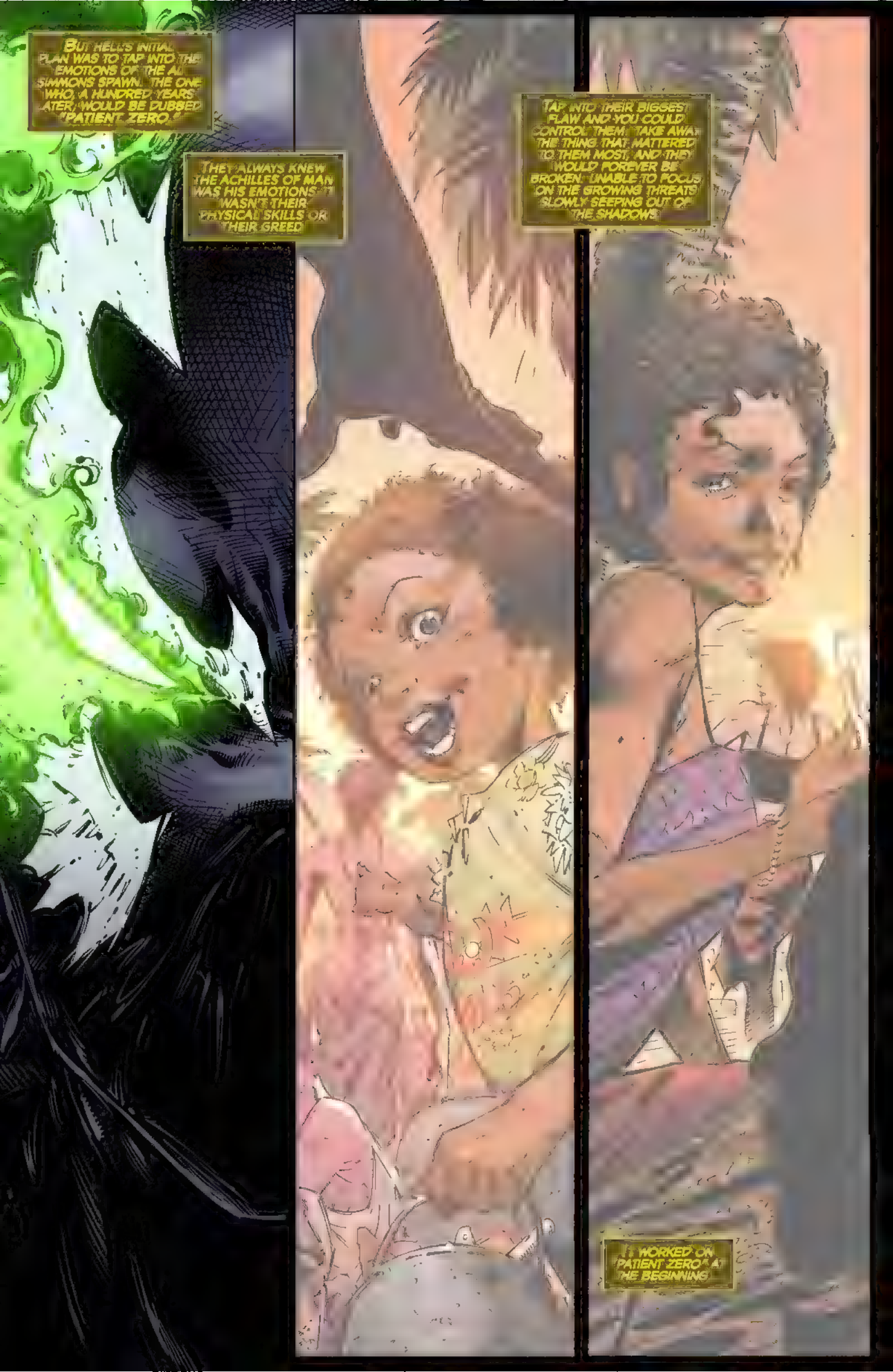
LOYALTY IS YOUR ONLY CURRENCY
WITHOUT IT, THEY WON'T FOLLOW YOU. AND THOSE WHO AREN'T BUILT TO BE LEADERS CAN'T UNDERSTAND ITS VALUE.
LOYALTY CREATES ARMIES. ARMIES CREATE ADHERENCE. AND ADHERENCE IS THE BEDROCK OF POWER. AND WE DON'T CARE IF WE GET THAT POWER THROUGH FEAR OR ALLEGIANCE. JUST AS LONG AS THEY KNOW THEIR LEADER CAN DESTROY ANY OF THEM.
THAT'S WHY I'VE CHOSEN YOU-- THEY DON'T KNOW YOU YET, SO, YOU CAN INFILTRATE THEIR RANKS. THEN KILL THOSE YOU DEEM 'UNNECESSARY.'
LIKE YOU DID?
EXACTLY, LIKE I DID. GOD, MEPHISTOPHELES, THE CLOWN...NONE OF THEM, WHEN THEY HAD THEIR CHANCES, FINISHED WHAT THEY STARTED! AND NONE OF THEM EVER WANTED ME FREED BECAUSE ONCE THAT HAPPENED, THEY KNEW IF THEY COULDN'T CONTROL SIMMONS, THEY'D HAVE NO CHANCE WITH ME.
ALL I NEED NOW IS SOMEONE TO UNLOCK THE FINAL DOOR FOR ME. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

"AL SIMMONS NEVER KNEW WHAT HE UNLEASED WITH MY DEATH. HE HAD NO IDEA HE HAD SENTENCED THE END OF HUMANITY WHEN HE KILLED ME.
"WE'RE GOING TO CONVERT THIS PLANET. MAKE IT IN OUR IMAGE. AND THE MILLIONS WHO WILL FIGHT AGAINST US WILL BLAME THE HELL-SPAWNS FOR EVERYTHING! IT MAY TAKE CENTURIES BUT WHEN WE GET THERE, I PROMISE I'LL SERVE YOU THE CARCASS OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING ME.
"WHEN HE DOES, I'M SURE HE'LL SCREAM... AND SCREAM!
"THEN YOU CAN TAKE OVER HIS MANTLE WITH A NEW IDENTITY, FILLED WITH MEMORIES THAT'LL BE SO CONVINCING YOU'LL THINK EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE...

"...WAS IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE."

"AND SO, ANSWER A SIMPLE QUESTION: CAN YOU BE LOYAL TO ME?"
YES.
WITH THAT SINGLE WORD, THE ATTEMPTS AT INTERSECTING THE FUTURE AND THE PAST BEGAN.

THE PROBLEM IS, THAT'S NOT HOW NATURE WORKS. IT WON'T TOLERATE BEING FORCED INTO SOMETHING THAT ISN'T NATURAL.
SO, WHEN HELL'S AMBITIOUS SOUL WERE THRUST UPON THE WORLD, TRYING TO DESTROY MAN AND CONQUERING HEAVEN, IT ALSO WOKE A SLEEPING GIANT. THAT RESULT WILL SOON MAKE ITS PRESENCE KNOWN.

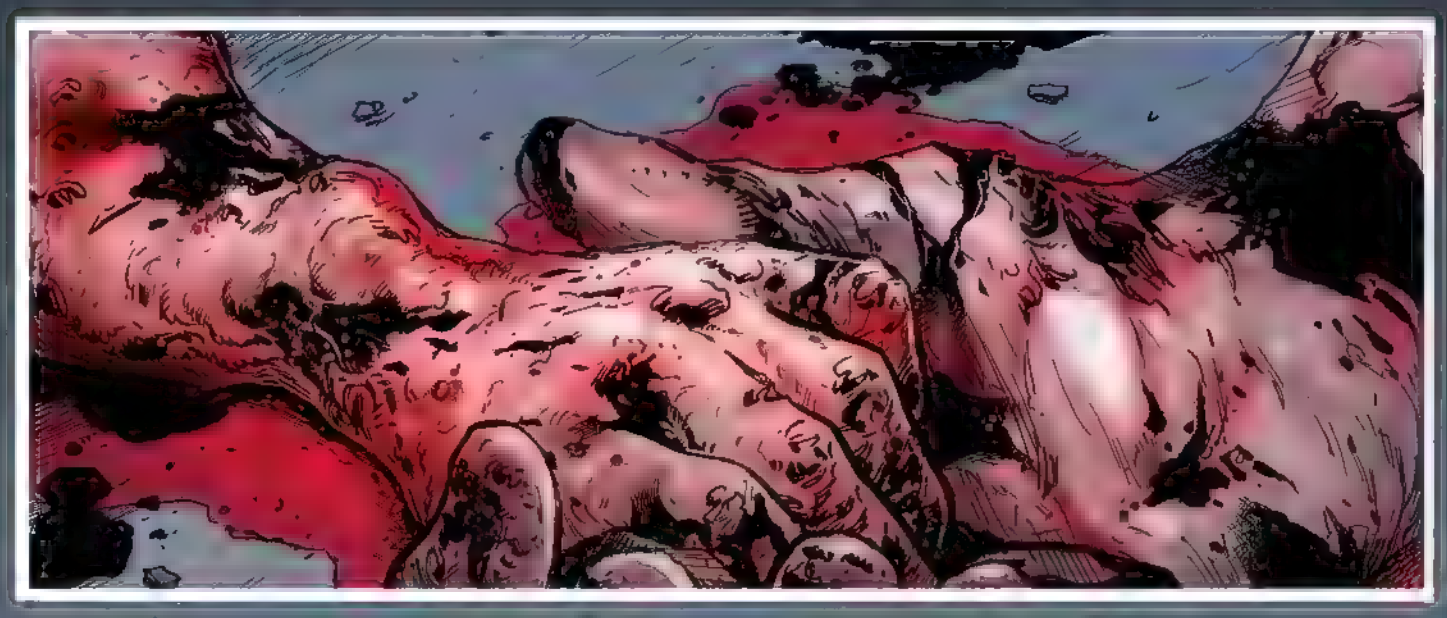

BUT HELL'S INITIAL PLAN WAS TO TAP INTO THE EMOTIONS OF THE ALL SIMMONS SPAWN, THE ONE WHO, A HUNDRED YEARS LATER, WOULD BE DUBBED "PATIENT ZERO."
THEY ALWAYS KNEW THE ACHILLES OF MAN WAS HIS EMOTIONS. IT WASN'T THEIR PHYSICAL SKILLS OR THEIR GREED.
TAP INTO THEIR BIGGEST FLAW AND YOU COULD CONTROL THEM. TAKE AWAY THE THING THAT MATTERED TO THEM MOST, AND THEY WOULD FOREVER BE BROKEN. UNABLE TO FOCUS ON THE GROWING THREATS SLOWLY SEEPING OUT OF THE SHADOWS.
I WORKED ON "PATIENT ZERO" AT THE BEGINNING.

AND CONTINUED TO WORK THROUGH THE COUNTLESS DECADES, UNTIL THE SERVITUDE OF HUMANS TURNED THEIR OWN ACTIONS INTO WARS SO DEVASTATING THAT THE VERY AIR BECAME POISONOUS TO MOST INHABITANTS
AL SIMMONS MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TARGET, BUT OTHERS, BLINDED BY THEIR FAITH AND LOYALTY, FOLLOWED ORDERS THAT WOULD KILL THEIR OWN LOVED ONES. AND BY THE TIME ANYONE COULD COMPREHEND THAT THE DELUSION OF THEIR ACTIONS HAD BEEN SET
EVEN THE VILLAINS CONVINCED THEMSELVES THEY WERE THE HEROES!

PULLED DEEP INTO THE BLACKNESS -- WHERE SPAWN THRIVES -- RAPTOR WON'T ALLOW HIMSELF TO BECOME A CAPTIVE. IF HE CAN'T CONTROL SIMMONS' MIND, THEN HE'LL MAKE SURE SIMMONS CAN'T CONTROL HIS, EITHER.
YOUR TIME WILL COME, HELLSPAWN!
THE SHADOWS WILL TURN ON YOU-- WHEN YOU'RE LEAST EXPECTING IT. THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHAT I'M FEELING. THE LOSES I'VE HAD TO ENDURE ALL THIS TIME.
I'D SOONER DIE THAN SERVE YOU!
RAPTOR! YOU CAN'T!
SPAWN GRITS HIS TEETH. IT HAD ONLY BEEN A FEW MOMENTS LOST IN THE DARKNESS FOR HIM, BUT FOR RAPTOR IT WAS YEARS OF BEING LOST. TIME HAD TWISTED ITSELF ONCE MORE.
AND, THOUGH THE SHADOWS HAD BLANKETED SPAWN A SHORT TIME, HIS MIND SAW FLASHES OF SOMETHING LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND. SOMEONE WHO HAD WAITED GENERATION UPON GENERATION TO PUT HIS "CHOSEN ONE" DIRECTLY IN SPIRITUAL CONTACT WITH SPAWN.
WHY? BECAUSE IT ONLY WANTED ONE THING AND SPAWN NOW KNOWS WHAT THAT WAS.

THE BEAST... IT'S BEEN FREED.
HE DIDN'T WANT RAPTOR AS A WARRIOR, HE WANTED HIM AS A SACRIFICE!
FROZEN IN THAT THOUGHT, SPAWN WILLS HIMSELF TO FIND A WAY BACK HOME. TO GET BACK TO WHERE HE BELONGS. AS HE PASSES THROUGH THAT MAZE OF TIME, SOMETHING FOLLOWS HIM.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE TWO OF THEM COME FACE TO FACE.

UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN THAT MEETING DOES HAPPEN, UNSPEAKABLE HORRORS WILL HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED. SCREAMS OF ANGUISHED PARENTS WILL FILL THE AIR LIKE THE HOWLS OF SOME INJURED ANIMAL.
WEEK AFTER WEEK THESE ACTS WILL OCCUR AS THE BEAST, WAITING UNTIL THE SUN SETS, ROAMS THE PLANET PREYING UPON OUR MOST INNOCENT.
AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN. IT WILL HAPPEN.



WITH NO WAY TO SLOW IT DOWN OR STOP IT, AND SINCE THIS BEAST CAN MOVE SO EASILY IN AND OUT OF THE SHADOWS IT CAN BE ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME.
THOUSANDS OF VOICES WILL GO HOARSE BEGGING FOR JUSTICE THAT WILL NEVER COME. FOR THIS ENEMY WILL SEEM TO BE INVISIBLE. AN INSANE GHOST, FEEDING LUSTILY ON THE SOULS AND TORTURED BODIES OF SO MANY CHILDREN.

ON THAT NIGHT WHEN SPAWN AND THE BEAST WILL ONCE AGAIN MEET, THE MONSTER WILL RE-INTRODUCE HIMSELF.
HEE HEE HEEE HE HEEE
AND THOSE WORDS WILL FOREVER HAUNT SPAWN!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SIMMONS?
OF COURSE, IT HAD TO BE ME!
BUT BILLY--HE'S GONE--
NOW THERE'S ONLY KINCAID!
GOD HELP ALL OF US

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